

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/890,924

Examiner

EDWYN LABAZE

Applicant(s)

IZAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 10/15/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10 and 12-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of amendments filed on 10/15/2004.
2. Claims 10, 12-18 are presented for examination.
3. This application is a 371 of PCT/JP99/06967 filed on 12/10/1999.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 10, 12-18 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, Koltai et al. (U.S. 6,104,812) discloses means of reading/sensing/screening a valuable paper [herein disclosed as a media such as tickets, passports, licenses, currency, postal media etc., with a hidden secondary image visible to a viewer only when a decoder is used (col.3, lines 55-60)] detectable by a sensor means of a bill validator which can discriminate authenticity of a bill inserted into the validator, but taken alone or in combination with any other references fails to teach means of sensing a valuable paper with a characteristic pattern inserted into a validator, means of detecting at least means of the validator a distinctive portion of a bill to discriminate authenticity of the bill inserted into the validator, wherein the sensor means is able to accept both the valuable paper and the bill upon sensing of the distinctive portion of the bill and the characteristic pattern on the valuable paper. Furthermore, in most instances a valuable paper is also referred/considered as a bill/legal tender, wherein the sensor/detector reads one or the other, but not both {i.e. a valuable paper with monetary value to be appreciated at any gaming/gambling establishments and a bill/currency}. These limitations in conjunction with other limitations in the claimed invention were not shown by the prior art of record.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Uadagawa et al. (U.S. 5,481,377) teaches image processing with anti-forgery function.

Batalianets et al. (U.S. 5,495,929) discloses apparatus and method for validation of bank notes and other valuable documents.

Izawa et al. (U.S. 5,615,280) teaches apparatus for recording symbols printed on documents or the like.

Keshet et al. (U.S. 6,553,136) discloses system and method for counterfeit protection.

Guo T et al. (2001-52091) teaches system and apparatus for detecting and tracking valuable paper capable of enhancing the security using the value paper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDWYN LABAZE whose telephone number is (571) 272-2395. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Edwyn Labaze
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
October 23, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl D. Frech', written in a cursive style.

KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER